

lack of historic records the East Anglian sites in Suffolk and north Essex may have been acquired fairly recently and may not be of a fully permanent nature. However an old record (1837) for Snaresbrook, Epping Forest given by Else (1989) suggests the possibility of its long-term presence in south Essex. However Lomholdt (1975–1976) mentions an expansion in the range of *Philanthus* in the late 1930s probably caused by unusually favourable weather conditions in July and August. It seems possible that with our recent favourable summers an expansion of range could be occurring in Britain.

Our thanks to John Felton for confirming the presence of *Philanthus* and for the determination of much of the other material, particularly in the Apidae.—P. R. Harvey, 9 Kent Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6DE and R. G. Payne, 11 Cliff Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7AJ.

REFERENCES

- Else, G. R. 1989. Profiles of *Crabro scutellatus*, *Ectemnius borealis* and *Philanthus triangulum*. *Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Scheme Newsletter* Autumn 1989: 2–6.
- Falk, S. 1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain. Research and Survey in Nature Conservation No. 35*, Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.
- Lomholdt, O. 1975–1976. *The Sphecidae (Hymenoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. Fauna Ent. Scand. 4: (2 vols).*

***Hylaeus cornutus* Curtis (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) in South London.**—This is the easiest member of the genus *Hylaeus* to identify, being the only one without white or yellow markings on the face. The female is even easier to identify on account of the clypeal processes which are usually visible to the naked eye. A further character of use in the field is the very orange-brown wing base in the female, which I regard as quite characteristic. The species is listed as notable A by Falk (1991) who comments that the habitat preferences of the species are unclear. Having found *H. cornutus* on a number of occasions in South London in recent years, I believe that some further comments can be made about this bee.

In my experience, females of *Hylaeus cornutus* attend the flowers of umbellifers, especially those of hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* L. and wild carrot *Daucus carota* L., often in considerable numbers. I have rarely come across males at flowers and have only once witnessed any mating activity. On this occasion, the female was resting on a hogweed flower with the male hovering above her.

The habitats frequented by *Hylaeus cornutus* in South London range from scrubby chalk downland at Banstead (TQ2560, 24.vi.1989) and abandoned runways and blast bays at Kenley Airfield (TQ3258, 1.viii.1992) also on chalk, to acid grass heath and scrub at Mitcham Common (TQ2868, TQ2867, TQ2967, many records 1988–1992), ruderal communities at the edge of Crystal Palace Park (TQ3371, 9.viii.1992) and scrubby grassland/ruderal communities near Walton Bridge (TQ0966, 12.vii.1992). It seems to me that the species is not indicative of high quality habitats but rather of scrubby ruderal communities. Doubtless, it occurs in a wider range of habitats as Falk reports, but I wonder if it is really as scarce as past records suggest.

In surveying Surrey for its Diptera fauna, I frequently visit less than ideal looking sites and am often surprised by the range of species to be found on sites which might otherwise be dismissed in terms of nature conservation interest. Perhaps more attention should be paid to ruderal sites than there has been hitherto. I also collect Hymenoptera as a by-product of recording flies and sample a set of niches that might be overlooked by more specialist Hymenopterists. I would therefore draw attention to the value of

umbellifers to certain elements of the Hymenoptera fauna which may prove to be more widespread than was once thought.—R. K. A. Morris, 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

REFERENCE

Falk, S. J. 1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain. Research and Survey in Nature Conservation*, 35. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

***Donacia obscura* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Wigtonshire.**—During a brief visit to Galloway I stopped in the area of Loch Mochrum to carry out some insect recording on 29.vi.1991. Just to the north is an area of blanket mire with a series of small lochs and lochans. Sweep-netting the sparse stands of bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata* Stokes) near the shores of Loch Hempton (NX 306546) produced a number of *Donacia* beetles which later turned out to be *D. clavipes* F. and *D. obscura*. This appears to be a new county record for the latter. This area of peatland is one of the few in southern Wigtonshire not afforested by the Forestry Commission, and is a nature conservation review grade 2 site (Ratcliffe, 1977).—K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2EF.

REFERENCE

Ratcliffe, D. (ed.) 1977. A nature conservation review. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

***Arhopalus rusticus* (L.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) on Wimbledon Common.**—In early spring 1992, Mr Tony Drakeford mentioned to me that the dead Scots pines around Caesar's Well in the south-west of Wimbledon Common, Surrey, showed signs of longhorn beetle activity. On 13.vi.1992 I collected a single *Arhopalus* adult there which Dr Roger Booth has identified as *Arhopalus rusticus* L. Dr Booth has found the species near Bournemouth, in Dorset (VC 11, South Hants) and Mr Andrew Halstead has found it at the edge of Wisley Common in Surrey (TQ 065 579), at a light trap. In both cases the beetles were found in or near a similar habitat to Wimbledon Common—heathland with scrub and pine. The species was originally taken in Britain at the turn of the century in Scotland, but has spread south in the last few decades, probably as a result of widespread conifer planting (Kaufmann, 1948, 1990). The indications are that a breeding colony of this species exists on the Common at present. My thanks to Mr Tony Drakeford, Dr Roger Booth, Mr A. J. Halstead, Dr Adrian Henderson and Miss Jean Barnes.—Martin Henderson, 13 Kimble Road, Collier's Wood, London SW19 2AU.

REFERENCES

Kaufmann, R. R. Uhthoff-. 1948. Notes on the distribution of the British longicorn Coleoptera. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 84: 66–85.

Kaufmann, R. R. Uhthoff-. 1990. The occurrence of the sub-family Aseminae (Col.: Cerambycidae) in the British Isles. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 102: 55–63.

Further records of deadwood Coleoptera from Nettlecombe Park, Somerset, including *Phloiortya vaudoueri* Mulsant new to the county.—An initial visit to assess the potential of Nettlecombe Park for the specialist fauna of dead and decaying timber was made on 6.vi.1988. This revealed a rich assemblage of species including three not previously recorded in Somerset (Alexander, 1988, 1990). A more detailed investigation was subsequently commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990, when three full days were spent on the site: 3.vi, 29.vii and 5.x. This work has taken the total of saproxylic Coleoptera to 60 species of which the most interesting